

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE AND EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. This action is responsive to communications: The Amendment filed 10/21/08.
2. Claims 29-39 have been cancelled as necessitated by the Examiner's Amendment.
3. Claim 40 has been added as necessitated by the Examiner's Amendment.
4. The objection to the specification has been withdrawn as necessitated by Amendment.
5. The previous rejections to the claims have been withdrawn as necessitated by the Examiner's Amendment.
6. Claim 40 is allowed as necessitated by the Examiner's Amendment and is discussed below in the Reasons for Allowance section.

Information Disclosure Statement

7. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 09/29/08 has been considered by the examiner.

Drawings

8. The drawings were received on 10/21/08. These drawings are unacceptable. The newly corrected drawings received on 10/21/08 are acceptable for overcoming the previously noted deficiencies (i.e. by providing a clearer copy). However, the current set of drawings are unacceptable and objected to because they are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(2) requiring that the English alphabet must be used for letters in the submitted drawings (e.g. Figs. 13, 14, 19, 20, 22-25, and 30-33). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to

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avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

EXAMINER’S AMENDMENT

9. An examiner’s amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner’s amendment was given in a telephone interview with Daniel Northfield on 10/23/08.

The Application has been amended as follows:

29-39 (Cancelled)

40. (New) A computer-implemented method for processing structured data content comprising:

determining whether Web content delivered through a network includes a content portion matched with a predetermined matching pattern, and if a content portion is determined to match:

processing the Web content to associate related information with the content portion of the Web content, the method further comprising:

setting a target subtree having nodes relating to a range including a target content portion as an extracted portion of the matching pattern in the Web content from which the predetermined matching pattern is to be extracted;

detecting an occurrence mode of each node of the target subtree by selecting a plurality of past Web contents with respect to the Web content and collating the target subtree relating to the target content portion with a tree relating to each of the past Web contents, wherein the occurrence mode detecting step includes detecting:

a first occurrence mode wherein detected nodes occur in both of the target content portion and Web contents collated therewith and contents thereof are mutually identical;
and,

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a second occurrence mode wherein the detected nodes occur in both of the target content portion and the Web contents collated therewith and the contents thereof are mutually different;

generating statistical information concerning an occurrence frequency of the occurrence mode of each node in the target subtree based on the plurality of past Web contents; and classifying each node of the target subtree based on the statistical information and a result of detecting the occurrence mode, wherein each node of the target subtree is classified into one of: a stationary node of which occurrence frequency of the first occurrence mode is determined to be equal to or more than a first threshold value by the statistical information, an updated node of which occurrence frequency of the second occurrence mode is determined to be equal to or more than a second threshold value by the statistical information, and additional nodes other than the stationary nodes and the updated nodes, wherein classifying the nodes of the target subtree further includes:

detecting whether a node relating to an image is a node relating to a formed-for-spacer image for ensuring a blank region;

detecting whether or not the node relating to the image is a node relating to a plurality of bullet images used repeatedly in a designated size;

a first classifying step of classifying the node relating to the formed-for-spacer image into the additional nodes; and

a second classifying step of allocating a plurality of the nodes relating to the bullet image into a classification among classifications of the stationary nodes, updated nodes

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and additional nodes even if display contents of the plurality of nodes are mutually different; and,

generating the matching pattern for the target content portion based on the classification.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

10. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claim 40, none of the references, either singularly or in combination, teach or suggest to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention the combination of the claimed limitations. In light of the combination of the features of the method steps of the independent claim the limitations of claim 40 are considered novel, and unobvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made in view of the prior art of record.

In regard to the Examiner's Amendment written above, the Examiner notes that said Amendment cancelling claims 29-39 and adding new claim 40 was an attempt to clear up the current record of the application as well as to satisfy 37 CFR 1.126.

(Numbering of claims. The original numbering of the claims must be preserved throughout the prosecution. When claims are canceled the remaining claims must not be renumbered. When claims are added, they must be numbered by the applicant consecutively beginning with the number next following the highest numbered claim previously presented (whether entered or not). When the application is ready for allowance, the examiner, if necessary, will renumber the claims consecutively in the

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order in which they appear or in such order as may have been requested by applicant.)

During prosecution of the application a preliminary amendment was submitted on 09/29/08 which cancelled claim 29 and added new claims 30-39. Said amendments occurred after the Examiner's first action on the merits mailed 09/26/08. The Applicant's response to the Examiner's action was to amend claim 29 such that said claim was deemed allowable. Thus newly added claim 40 is merely the properly numbered and considered amended claim 29.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Please note the additionally cited reference on the accompanying PTO-892 form.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ADAM L. BASEHOAR whose telephone number is (571)272-4121. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:00am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steve Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Adam L Basehoar/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2178